

Knesset passes adoption bill

By a vote of 19 to 2, the Knesset last night passed second and third (final) readings of a bill which would allow families to adopt a child of a different religion as long as it does not harm the child's interests. The bill was submitted by MKs Yael Dayan (Labor) and Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

The bill was not opposed by religious MKs, and was even supported by Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (NRP) and MK Nissim Dahan (Shas). MKs Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) and Nawaf Massalha (Labor) voted against it.

Yahalom explained that a non-Jewish child adopted abroad would be recognized as an Israeli. Dahan said he supported the bill because until now families often converted the child abroad according to non-Orthodox movements.

The bill should come into force on January 1, but will apply to children adopted in the previous six months.

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